

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	
	)	
vs.	)	Criminal No. 11-122
	)	<u>See</u> Civil Action No. 12-1802
RICHARD SCOTT BLACKSTONE,	)	
	)	
Defendant/petitioner.	)	

O R D E R

AND NOW, this 2nd day of January, 2013, upon consideration of Defendant's Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis (document No. 387) filed in the above captioned matter on December 10, 2012,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said Motion is DENIED, there being no filing fee associated with the filing of a motion to vacate.

AND, further, upon consideration of Defendant's Motion Under 28 U.S.C. §2255 to Vacate, Set Aside or Correct Sentence (document No. 386) filed in the above captioned matter on December 10, 2012,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said Motion is DENIED without prejudice.

Defendant's motion is premature. His direct appeal is currently pending before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. See document No. 357. While there is no jurisdictional bar to consideration of a motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2255 during the

pendency of a direct appeal, ordinarily such a motion is deemed to be premature and dismissed without prejudice. See United States v. Banks, 269 Fed. Appx. 152, 153 (3d Cir. 2008) ("In the context of collateral attacks upon convictions, courts have concluded that there is no jurisdictional bar to a district court's adjudication of a §2255 motion while the movant's direct appeal is pending, but that such actions are disfavored as a matter of judicial economy and concern that the results on direct appeal may make the district court's efforts a nullity.") (citing United States v. Prows, 448 F.3d 1223, 1228-29 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2006)).

As the Third Circuit noted in Kapral v. United States, 166 F.3d 565 (3d Cir. 1999), a "collateral attack is generally inappropriate if the possibility of further direct review remains open: A district court should not entertain a habeas corpus petition while there is an appeal pending." Id. at 570. As such, "in the absence of 'extraordinary circumstances,' the 'orderly administration of criminal justice' precludes a district court from considering a §2255 motion while review of the direct appeal is still pending." Id. at 572 (quoting United States v. Gordon, 634 F.2d 638, 638-39 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 1980)). See also Rule 5, Rules Governing §2255 Proceedings, Advisory Committee Note.

Accordingly, because Defendant's direct appeal is still pending and because there are no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant collateral review during the pendency of that appeal,

Defendant's motion is denied without prejudice to his right to seek Section 2255 relief after his appeal has been decided, if he possesses such a right.

s/Alan N. Bloch  
United States District Judge

ecf: Counsel of record

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